



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE:

FELON INDICTED FOR POSSESSION ASSAULT RIFLE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that felon was indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegally possessing an assault rifle. Today's indictment, Graves said, is the result of work completed by NITRO (the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation).

John Kent McBroom, 38, address unknown, was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **McBroom** was a felon in possession of a firearm. The federal indictment alleges that **McBroom** was in possession of a Norinco SKS assault rifle on Aug. 14, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **McBroom** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for possessing methamphetamine and a 1997 criminal felony conviction for creation of a controlled substance.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **McBroom** was an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm on May 7, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any addict or unlawful user of a controlled substance to possess any firearm or ammunition. The federal indictment alleges that **McBroom** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine when he was in possession of the Norinco SKS assault rifle.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. The case was investigated by the Daviess County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Daviess County, Mo.,

Prosecutor's Office and NITRO, the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow